

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 09/762,699

Confirmation No.: 8491

Filed: May 10, 2001

For: Methods And Apparatus For  
Connecting Tubulars Using A  
Top Drive

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Essama Omgbia

Customer No.: 36,735

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I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the fax number indicated by the Examiner, namely, fax number 703/672-9906 to the attention of the named Examiner, on the date below.

24 Feb 05

Colleen R. Ritter

Date Signature

**37 CFR §1.312 AMENDMENT**

Please enter this amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0029/WBP for any fees required to make this amendment timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

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2/20 9/8/05*

24. (Previously Presented) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the horizontal movement is in a substantially horizontal plane.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising:

a plate attachable to said top drive,  
a supporting member for supporting a tool, and  
a means for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member, wherein said means comprises the means comprising:

a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle, and

~~wherein said means comprises~~ at least one arm arranged between said rigid member and said support supporting member and connected thereto by spherical bearings.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said motive member couples the plate to the supporting member.

27. (Previously Presented) A top drive system, comprising:

a top drive;  
a tubular gripping apparatus; and  
a connector operatively coupling the tubular gripping apparatus to the top drive, wherein the connector is adapted to allow the tubular gripping apparatus to move horizontally relative to the top drive and allow the tubular gripping apparatus to be rotated by the top drive.

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